

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05763

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, XX, CU
SUBJECT: WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA

REF: STATE 09464

1. THE UK DELEGATION TO THE FORTHCOMING HAVANA WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL (BYC), AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF MAJOR BRITISH YOUTH GROUPS REPRESENTING ALL COLORS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. THE SMALL BRITISH DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS (THE LARGEST GROUP WITHIN THE BYC), THE BOY SCOUTS, AND THE YOUTH WINGS OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES. THE DELEGATION LEADER WILL BE BYC CHAIRMAN PETER MANDELSON, A POLITICALLY-AMBITIOUS, MODERATE-LEFT TRADES UNION FIGURE WHO IS ALSO AN UNOFFICIAL ADVISOR TO PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN ON YOUTH AFFAIRS.

2. TONY KERPEL, FORMER HEAD OF THE YOUNG CONSERVATIVES AND NOW THE BRITISH PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC YOUTH COMMITTEE OF EUROPE (DEMYC - AN UMBRELLA GROUP REPRESENTING YOUNG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND THE YOUTH WINGS OF OTHER MODERATE AND CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES IN FOURTEEN
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NATIONS) HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL AS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION. KERPEL IS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL, AS HE FEELS (AND HAS TOLD MANDELSON) THAT THE VASTLY OUTNUMBERED MODERATE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE USED TO LEGITIMIZE A PRE-DETERMINED FESTIVAL AGENDA AND OUTCOME WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN FIXED IN ADVANCE BY THE COMMUNIST AND RADICAL-

LEFT ORGANIZERS. MANDELSON'S COUNTERARGUMENT IS THAT THE BRITISH DELEGATION COULD SERVE AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE FESTIVAL IN HAVANA.

3. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, LOCAL OPINION MOLDERS, AND BRITISH YOUTH LEADERS THEMSELVES ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS REGARDING THE TRUE NATURE AND INSPIRATION OF THE HAVANA FESTIVAL. ANY DEMARCHES OR ACTIVITIES ON OUR BEHALF WOULD, IN THE WORDS OF REFTEL, "GIVE MORE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNAL MORE CONCERN THAT THE FESTIVAL MERITS AND MIGHT OTHERWISE BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE." WE SHALL THEREFORE MAINTAIN AN ESSENTIALLY PASSIVE POSTURE, CONFINING OUR OWN ROLE TO PROVIDING--IF REQUESTED--FACTUAL INFORMATION AND OTHER BACKGROUND SUPPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE BRITISH AUTHORITIES. ALL COMPONENTS OF THE MISSION ARE AWARE OF AND CONCUR IN THIS APPROACH.

BREWSTER

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